SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND RÁJPÚTÁNA.

Received up to 21st October, 1889.

POLITICAL.

The Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the 17th October, in an article headed "Cannot India raise 20 a fund of 20 lakhs of rupees lakhs for the National Cause?" urges that natives should raise 20 lakhs of the National Cause?

rupees from public subscription and

invest the fund in 4 per cent. Government Promissory Notes. The income from interest would amount to eighty thousand rupees a year, one-half of which should be devoted to the payment of the expenses of the annual Congress meetings, and the other half to those of the Political Agency in England. The establishment of such a fund would place the Congress on a firm basis and convince the English public that a strong national feeling has grown up in this country. Mr. Hume, who works so hard for the national cause in his old age, and has himself spent twenty-two thousand rupees in the promotion of that cause, has made an appeal to public-spirited natives to contribute forty thousand rupees a year to meet the cost of the Political Agency in England. It is to be hoped that the natives will give a warm response to his appeal and will not expose themselves to the charge of ingratitude and blindness to their own best interests.

Circulation,

Chemistics.

The Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the 15th October, express-

Election of Sir William Wedderburn as President of the next Bombay National Congress. es great satisfaction at the rumour that Sir William Wedderburn will preside at the next National Congress at Bombay, and observes that no better

selection could be made. Sir William has always been a true friend of natives and is a staunch supporter of the Congress. The establishment of the Congress Committee in England is chiefly due to his exertions. With the exception of some Parsis and Musalmans, no sensible man now accuses the Congress of disloyalty. It is to be hoped that the occupation of the chair at the next Bombay meeting by Sir William Wedderburn, who was but lately the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government and a Member of the Governor's Council, will convince those Parsis and Musalmans of the loyalty of the Congress and win them over to its side.

Circulation,

The Subodh Sindhu (Khandwa), of the 16th October, gives an account of a public meeting held at National Congress meetthe Morris Memorial Library, Khaning held at Khandwa, Central Provinces. dwa, on the 10th idem. Babu Navin Chandra Rai presided, and Sadáshiya Pándurang Kelkar of Bombay delivered a lengthy speech in support of the National Congress and the introduction of social reform. His comments on social reform were unpalatable to a large portion of the audience, and two persons opposed his proposals. The Subodh Sindhu is of opinion that the National Congress should not meddle with social questions, otherwise it would become unpopular and alienate the sympathies of many influential men. It will be remembered that on the occasion of the Social Conference at Allahabad during Christmas week last year, the late Hon'ble Vishwa Nath Narayan Mandlik expressed his opposition to the agitation for social reform.

Circulation,

The Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the 19th October, is glad the Observer Journal to say that the people in England and the National Congress, have lately begun to take a lively interest in Indian offsire, owing to the efforts of the Indian Political Agency. Almost all the leading English newspapers have reviewed the last National Congress Report, and their reviews, except those of some prejudiced Conservative journals, are very favourable. The comments of the Gloucester Journal deserve special notice. It sympathizes with the aims and objects of the Congress and emphatically condemns the conduct of the officials who threw impediments in the way of the Congress Committee last year. It is of opinion that a question should be asked in Parliament regarding the conduct of such officials, and suggests that the Secretary of State should issue stringent orders preventing the manifestation of similar hostility in future. It is quite right in counselling Government to encourage the Congress by friendly advice and sympathy, and preventing officials foolishly goading the Congress to secret ways of treason and disloyalty. There is no doubt that if Government sympathizes with the Congress and assists it with advice, it will grow up to be a very useful institution and a powerful auxiliary in the hands of the Government.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

A correspondent of the Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the

19th October, complains that the addithe Hindus of Rebtek by
tional police force, 130 strong, which

of the Hindus of Rohtak by the police. tional police force, 130 strong, which Major Rennick has obtained, greatly

oppresses the Hindus of Rohtak. Shopkeepers have been constrained to establish stalls at the camp of the force, which is a mile and a-half from the city, for the supply of provisions. They have to be present in the camp throughout the day and are unable to go to their homes even to take their meals. They are paid half the prime cost of their articles, and sometimes they are required to supply such things as they are not professionally expected to keep. daily exposed to the kicks and blows of the police. the police stop short at no indignities, however vile, to which to subject these unfortunate traders. Are provisions supplied to the camps of officials and troops in England in the same way? There was no necessity for the location of any penal police force at Rohtak. The Deputy Commissioner has established the force there simply to harass the Hindu traders and bankers, who have incurred his displeasure. The force is drilled every morning and evening inside the city, and the constables insult and beat the Hindus on the most frivology

Circulation, 415 copies. pretacts. In order to escape such ill-treatment the Hindus stay within doors most of the day, opening their shops only for a few hours for the transaction of business. Hindus are not allowed to send their cattle out to pasture. Kutabu-l-din, the Deputy-Inspector of Police, has told Musalmans to capture any cattle belonging to Hindus which may be found in the public streets and thoroughfares. Even the telegraph signaller, who is a Musalman, does not send to its destination any message which he receives from Hindus for transmission, and delays the delivery of messages to them for several hours.

Circulation,

The Jubilee Paper (Lucknow), of the 16th October, referring to the assessment of the income The assessment of the income tax at Lucknow. tax at Lucknow, complains that the over-zealous native assessors enhance the assessments yearly, in order to win the good-will of the authorities, and that the objections filed by the assessees are summarily dismissed. In some instances assessors make inequitable assessments on The Tahsildar voluntarily recommends receipt of bribes. increases in assessments, simply in order to ingratiate himself in favour of the Deputy Commissioner. Government itself is responsible for the tyranny and oppression of its unconscionable native officials. The Jubilee Paper, being a true wellwisher of Government, readily brings the faults of the administration to its notice, in order, if not to remedy them, that it may at least know of what is going forward, and hereafter advance no plea of ignorance.

Circulation, 415 copies. The Hinduston (Kalakankar), of the 19th October, complaint against Mr. plains that it appears from a communively the District Maccation published in the Hindutoni of Lucknow that when Mr. Wright, the District Magistrate of Cawapore, passes through a street or thoroughfare, all persons have to make him profound obeisance. If any man fails to do so, he is marked, and the police are set to work to entangle him within the meshes of the law. Lotely Manlyi Muhammad Jama, a physician of Moradabad, one of whose brothers holds a respectable post in the Rewah State and another is a Tahaildar in the Shahjahanpur district, went to Cawapore and put up at the house of Maulyi Abdul

Jalil, pleader of the District Judge's Court. During his stay at Campore he had oceasion to visit a patient. While he was examining the patient, Mr. Wright passed by the place and took him to task for failing in due respect to him. The physician replied that, being a stranger, he was not acquainted with the customs of the place, and bowed humbly before the But Mr. Wright was not satisfied with his expla-Magistrate. nation and manifestation of humility and forthwith caused the police to prosecute him as a vagrant. It was with great difficulty that he succeeded in convincing the police that he was not a vagrant. The Local Government might perhaps consider it worth while investigating the matter.

The Túti-i-Hind (Meerut), of the 16th October, advert-

ing to the criminal prosecution instituted by Pandit Ganga Ram against Shaikh Ahmad Hasan, the editor of the Shahna-i-Hind, Meerut, for libel, says that the accused has been convicted and fined Rs. 100 by Mr. Hope, the Joint Magistrate, and considers the conviction just. It is to be

future.

The Naiyar-i-Azam (Moradabad), of the 14th October,

hoped that the Shaikh will refrain from vilifying people in

The proprietor of the Naiyar-i-Azam newspaper fined Rs. 25 by the Joint Magistrate for publishing an obscene advertisement for the sale of aphrodisiacs.

The editor of the Shah-

na-i-Hind newspaper, Meerut, fined Rs. 100 for libel.

> referring to the criminal prosecution instituted against its proprietor by Government under section 292 of the Penal Code, gives an account of the trial held by the Joint Magistrate on

the 12th idem, and states that the accused was convicted and fined Rs. 25.

The Najmu-l-Hind (Moradabad), of the 17th October,

Prosecutions instituted against newspapers publishing advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs.

says that prosecutions have lately been instituted by Government against some vernacular newspapers under section 292 of the Penal Code, for publishing

advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs. The proprietors of the Naru-l-Anuar of Campore and the Naiyar-i-Azam of Moradabad have already been fined, and the prosecutions against the Nisam-ul-Mulk and the Sitara-i-Hind of Morad-

Circulation, 310 copies.

Circulation 250 copics.

Circulation,

ments to which Government has taken exception are published by newspapers for the benefit of the public. If Government considers them obscene and is averse to their publication, it should make provision to that effect in the Penal Code. In 1885 when the publisher of the Nasim-i-Budaun was convicted under section 292 of the Penal Code, Government sent a memorandum to all native editors in these provinces, drawing their attention to the conviction as a warming. A similar memorandum had better be issued again.

Circulation,

The Nasim-i-Agra, of the 15th October, condemns the salaries paid to chaprasis attached to the alleged need for an law courts and Government offices as too small. The general rate of pay the Rs. 5 or 6, and obviously the amount is quite inadequate to meet all the demands made on a chaprasi's purse. He must wear neat clothes, feed and clothe his wife and children, and meet the expenses of domestic occurrences in his family. The result is that he is constrained to eke out his miserable pittance by the exercise of his wits. When the present rate of pay was fixed grain was comparatively cheap. Since then prices have doubled, while the rate of pay has remained stationary. Under these circumstances it is necessary to increase the salaries of chaprasis.

Circulation, 400 copies. The Master-i-Agra, of the 15th October, says that formerly, The alleged lavy of a on the arrival of the camp of the levelst tax at Agra. Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor-General, or any other high official at a place, a tax used to be levied by the tahsil chaprasis from shopkeepers, under the pretext that the money so raised would be paid to those traders who would provide supplies for the camps as compensation for the loss they would suffer in doing so. The Nacional Agra drew attention to the illegal practice, and Government, after making an inquiry through the district officers, forbade it. It is believed that another equally observious tax, which is popularly known as the hewalet tax, is levied at Agra. There will be but little eccasion for susprise if, on enquiry, it trans-

provinces. According to popular rumour, one trader has to provide the daily supplies for the prisoners in the lock-up. In order to compensate him for the expense incurred in sending provisions all the way from his shop to the lock-up, a tax is levied upon the other shopkeepers monthly. Obviously the levy of such blackmail is quite unjustifiable, and even the pretended necessity for it would cease to exist if honest arrangements were made with a contractor to supply provisions. Care, of course, would have to be taken that the contractor be liable to no extortion by subordinate officials, otherwise the necessarily inferior quality of the provisions supplied would bid fair to starve the prisoners or prostrate them with illness.

A local correspondent of the Azad (Lucknow), of the 18th

Circulation, 240 copies.

October, complains that attars or native druggists at Lucknow sometimes dispense the root of the rosebay or oleander, which is poisonous, in place of marshmallow, and that some patients are at the present moment prostrated from the effects of the poison so administered; and censures the municipal board for not taking steps to prevent the dispensing of adulterated, rotten or wrong drugs.

The Prayag Samachar (Allahabad), of the 14th October,

The inspection of records in the offices of the District Magistrate and the Sessions Judge, Mirzapur.

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is glad to learn that Mr. Winter, Joint Magistrate, Mirzapur, has checked bribery and corruption in his court.

The clerks serving under him refuse to receive any bribes offered them by the people. But it is believed that the record-keepers in the offices of the District Magistrate and the Sessions Judge appropriate to their own use a portion of the fees derived from the inspection of records. The Magistrate and the Judge should make proper arrangements for the inspection of records and occasionally examine the registers of fees obtained from it.

The same paper complains that the police officials at Mirza-

The muharrir or writer at the city police-station; Mirsapur, accused of having received a bribe from a woman.

pur interfere even in those cases in which they are not empowered by law to meddle. On the 4th September two women, named Nibasia and Sheo Mania, were Circulation;

wrangling with each other in Basilganj. Har Prasad, the headconstable in charge of the police-station at Basilganj, detained
one of them at the police-station for some time, and afterwards
sent her to the city police-station, where the muharrir or writer
extorted from her Rs. 7 as a bribe (which she had to provide
by mortgaging an ornament) and then granted her a receipt
under section 323 (sic). It is to be hoped that Mr. Punnett,
the District Magistrate, who is famous for his sense and love
of justice and impartiality, will make inquiries into the matter.

Circulation, 250 copies. The same paper complains that the management of the Alleged levy of black-mail by boatment from the passengers at the Gantest ferry, Mirzapur.

Ganges ferry at Mirzapur is in an unsatisfactory state, and that boatmen levy blackmail from the passengers.

A correspondent of the Surma-i-Rozgár (Agra), of the 16th

October, complains that cases of theft
are of frequent occurrence at Mainpuri,
and ascribes the evil to the alleged
neglect of duty on the part of the police. The constables and
the chaukidars do not keep watch and ward at night, but are
to be found fast asleep in streets and thoroughfares, and the
City Inspector of Police exercises no supervision over them.

LEGISLATION.

Circulation, 415 copies.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 19th October, referring to the Official Secrets Bill, ob-The Official Secrets Bill. serves that Mr. Scoble says that the object of the measure is to prevent state employes selling information regarding Government plans, models and other secrets to foreign Governments. The object is, no doubt, a very worthy one, and no sane man can object to it. But the law already provides for this. Any man who discloses Government secrets to a foreign nation is hable to be punished for high treason, and there is consequently no necessity for fresh legislation for this purpose. It should be observed that newspapers have occasionally published confidential official papers. The secret police circular and Sir Mortimer Durand's Kashmir letter were brought to light by them, and Government was put to shame by an expose of its underhand proceedings. Hence, the real object of the Official Secrets Bill would appear

to be to prevent such exposure in future. Any Government servant who discloses an official secret will be liable to imprisonment for a year under the provisions of the Bill. But when any person in the service of a private firm or company divulges the secrets of the house, he is merely ejected from his office. Hence Government, too, is not justified in inflicting any additional punishment on its servants who may be found guilty of similar misconduct. Another objection to which the Bill is open is, that it will lead the public to imagine that the proceedings of Government are not straightforward, and consequently Government is afraid of their seeing the light. measure will create unnecessary suspicions in the public mind, as has been observed by the Madras Government. will also be liable to punishment under the Bill for publishing secret official correspondence in their newspapers. But it is the duty of an editor to obtain information from every possible source and to publish it. Can Government be justified in punishing him for the zealous performance of his duty? Editors: derive much of their information from Government servants. But if the Bill under review is passed, Government servants will be chary about supplying any information whatsoever to newpapers, and the press will greatly suffer from that channel of information being closed to it. The most curious provision in the Bill is, that it will rest with Government itself to decide whether an official paper is secret or not. The provision will place newspapers at the mercy of Government officials, inasmuch as it will enable officials to injure any newspaper which happens to incur their displeasure, at any time they please; while those newspapers which enjoy their favour will not be interfered with, even though they publish the most confidential state documents. The Bill will be most injurious to native newspapers, which should enter a strong protest against it.

EDUCATION.

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, in another article published in the

Controversy regarding
the proposed appointment of Mr. Justice Mahmud as
Life Secretary to the Aliby a friend that if he desires to congarh College Committee

The management of the college

according to his own views, he need not appoint a committee for the purpose. Plainly, his friend does not know the history of any great national institution founded in civilized countries. When a man undertakes a great work, he appoints a committee to co-operate with him and assist him in carrying out the scheme. Such a committee should not oppose his views and throw obstacles in his way, but place at his service bond fide counsel. If the members unnecessarily interfere with him, the work which he has undertaken is sure to suffer. Every great work in the world has been accomplished by the efforts of a single individual. The Muhammadan empire, which once attained gigantic proportions, was founded by the prophet alone. The foundation of the American Republic was due to the circumstance that the orders of its founder, Washington, were implicitly obeyed by his countrymen. Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan then says that he is ready and willing to enter the lists in mortal combat against his foes, but that if they, in terror for their lives, decline the courtesy, he has no objection to fight even with shoes. denounces them as being no better than a set of whimpering dancing-girls and plotting cowards. If they have any manly courage or sense of honour in them, he is ready to go with them to Paris, which is heaven on earth, and to have their fate decided in a moment. They should remember that he will not suffer the college, which is the work of his life-labour, to perish so long as he is able to preserve it in its integrity with his own right hand. Before they fan the fire, they should try and form some idea of the terrible effect of its flames.

The Oudh Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 14th October, publishes a long article communicated by a correspondent, under the nom de plume of Hairat, and who makes hostile comments on Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan's article in the Aligarh Institute Gazette of the 5th idem. The writer censures Sir Sayyid for allowing his reason to be swayed and obscured by his ungovernable passion, leading him into the puerile practice of vilifying his adversaries. His definition of the functions of a committee is really a very extraordinary one. Is it the duty of a committee only to record the mandates of its Secretary? Mr. Justice Mahmud

111

is not fit for the post of Secretary to the College Committee, as he has no sympathy with that kind of work. If Sir Sayyid has the interests of the Muhammadan community at heart, he should get Maulyi Sami-ullah Khan nominated as his successor. It is to be hoped that he will think over the subject dispassionately and not destroy his erewhile brilliant reputation.

The Najmu-l-Akhbar (Etáwah), of the 16th October, says that the article published by Nawab The same. Mushiru-l-Mulk, the younger son of the late Sir Salar Jang I, in favour of Mr. Justice Mahmud, to which Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan and his partisans attach great importance, contains no new argument. Perhaps the Nawab has never visited the Aligarh College, and even if he has, his visit must have extended over a few hours only. His opinion can have no weight against the views of Maulyi Khwaja Muhammad Yusuf and other trustees of the college, who have always been associated with Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan in managing its affairs. Although there is reason to think that Sir Sayyid will succeed in getting Mr. Justice Mahmud elected his successor, the Najmu-l-Akhbar will never support a proposal which it considers injurious to the welfare of the college. Sir Sayyid has published another article, which is couched in still more intemperate terms than the previous He never used such extraordinary language before. He has girded up his loins, and a tussle will take place between him and Maulvi Sami-ullah Khan at the general meeting of the trustees, which will be held at Aligarh on the 31st Octo-The struggle over, the two combatants will go to Paris to fight a duel, Sir Sayyid says that the spread of the Muhammadan religion was effected by the prophet singlehanded and that the American Republic was founded by Washing-But did they appoint their heirs their successors in the Government? It is a pity that a man like Sir Sayyid should allow passion to overbalance his reason.

The Riyazu-l-Akhbar (Gorakhpur), of the 16th October, denounces the tone of Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan's article, and observes that

he is now evidently in his detage. In future, the country should not be guided by his opinion in any important matter.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 18th October, says that Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan's article has created a profound sensation among his opponents. The approaching debate on the draft of the college rules will be as memorable in the history of the college as the Battle of Waterloo is in the history of Europe. Sir Sayyid would have been justified in using still more forcible language, inasmuch as, for the sake of the college, he calmly endured all the ill-natured epithets levelled at his devoted head, solicited subscriptions, held a lottery, and hesitated not even to appear on the stage as an actor. Now that the college has been established and brought to its present state of prosperity by him, Maulyi Sami-ul-lah Khan and others desire to wrest from him its management. But they will never succeed in their selfish design.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS EXAMINED.

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Najmu-l-Hind Najmu-l-Hind Nasim-i-Agra Nasim-i-Hind Nasim-i-Hind Nisamu-l-Hulk Nisamu-l-Auski Nyaya Sudik	Oudh Amele	Oudh Punch Praydy Samáchár Rofest, Attitus	Rahbar Rajpútána Gazette Rússe-l-Akhbár		Surma-i-Bozgár Tohfa-i-Hind Tútk-i-Hind Zarffu-l-Hind
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The 25th October, 1889. }

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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

Received up to 28th October, 1889.

CONTENTS.

POLITICAL.

•	iswa.				Page
The election of Sir Willia	m Wedderbu	m as Presi	dent of th	e next	
- National Congress	•••	•••	•••		665
Prince Albert Victor's visi	t to Hyderaba	d	•••	•••	665
Rámpur		•••	•••	•••	666
The quarrel between the R.	ája of Tehri a	nd Surgeon	Hanley, B	reilly,	666
	ADMINIST	RATION.			
Comments on the Secretar	y of State's d	lespatch re	garding the	report	
of the Public Service Co	ommission	•••	•••		667
Suggestions made by the	Pioneer for the	e reform of	the police f	orce	668
The alleged oppression of	the Hindus at	Rohtak by	the authori	ties	669
The Benares temple case	•••	•••	•••	• •••	669
The raising of the limit of	age for the C	ivil Service	Examinatio	n	669
The recruitment of the	Subordinate E	xecutive Ser	rvice in the	North-	
Western Provinces and	Oudh	1300	•••	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	669
The excise policy of Gover	nment	•••			670
The complaints made by t		against M	r. Wright,	the Dis-	1 - 5
trict Magistrate of Caw	npore	•••	• • • •	•••	670
A suggestion for raising	funds to mee	t the cost	of the new d	lrainage	
scheme, Benares	•••	•••	1	•••	671
A suggestion for the estab			1/2 00	•••	671
Criminal prosecutions just	ituted against	editors for	publishing	obscene	مراط
advertisements for the	sale or approdi	SIBCE	S > ***	• 122	671
				The state of the s	300 000

						Page
The alleged inquir	y made by the	Tahsildár	at Agra in	to the cha	racter	
of the publisher	of a newspape	r		•••	•••	672
The fall of a wall	of the municip	al latrine	s at Mirzapu	F	,	672
The alleged freque	nt occurrence	of theft a	t Mirzapur	•••		672
	LE	GISLAT	ION.			
The Official Secret	ts Act		•••	***		672
8.7.4	10	DUCATI	ON.			1
The controversy r	egarding the p	roposed	ppointment	of Mr. J	ustice	
Mahmud as Lif	e Secretary to	the Aligar	h College C	ommittee		678
Ditto	ditto	-	17			674
Village schools			A A STATE			675
						0,0
		AILWAY	3.			¥
Distribution of th	ird class ticket	s at the A	llahabad rail	way statio	n	675
The Indian Midle			1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			678
	TO SPITE OF	7		•••	•••	0,0

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VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND RAJPUTANA. Received up to 28th October, 1889.

POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

Congress.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 22nd October, express-

es great satisfaction at the circum-The election of Sir Wilstance that Sir William Wedderburn has liam Wedderburn as President of the next National consented to preside at the next National

Congress at Bombay; and observes

that his presidency will put to shame those narrow-minded Civilians who, far from encouraging the Congress, harass its supporters and sympathizers in all manner of mean, unmanly The Pioneer viewed with great concern and dismay the occupation of the chair at the last Congress by Mr. Yule, a leading member of the Anglo-Indian mercantile community. The feelings of the Allahabad newspaper at the acceptance of the presidentship of the Congress by a well-known and muchrespected Civilian, who rose to the high position of Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government and held that position until only two years ago, when he retired from the service, may be readily imagined.

The Tati-i-Hind (Meerut), of the 24th October, refers to Prince Albert Victor's the heavy expenses and losses to visit to Hyderabad. which the Hyderabad State has been subject during the last four or five years, and observes that although the condition of the State treasury is very unsatisCirculation, 415 copies.

Circulation, 310 copies.

	72
	72
The alleged frequent occurrence of theft at Mirzapur 6"	72
LEGISLATION.	•
M- 08-1-19-1	
EDUCATION.	72
The controversy regarding the proposed appointment of Mr. Justice	
	78
	14
	5
RAILWAYS.	
Distribution of third class tickets at the Allahabad railway station 6	75
Mho Tadian Midland Davi	75

Cironistion.

construction of the contract o